

Hamadryad Vol. 26, No. 2, pp. 369 – 371, 2001
Copyright Centre for Herpetology
Madras Crocodile Bank Trust

Report on the herpetofauna of Pulau Tulai, West Malaysia

Pulau Tulai is a small islet (1.6 km²) lying 40 km off the south-eastern coast of peninsular Malaysia and 5 km off the north-western coast of Pulau Tioman. It is a T-shaped island 1.6 km in length along an east-west axis and 1 km in width along a north-south axis. Its interior is steep-sided and rocky but lacks permanent freshwater. Most of the island had been cleared for coconut plantations prior to 1960 but some large dipterocarps remained and secondary growth is now extensive (Bullock and Medway, 1966).

The herpetofauna of the much larger Pulau Tioman has been extensively studied (Day, 1990; Grismer et al., 2002 and in prep.; Hendrickson, 1966a,b; Lim and Lim, 1999) whereas that of the nearby Pulau Tulai has been less well documented. In fact, the only published account of the herpetofauna comes from Hendrickson (1966a) who reported the presence of *Cnemaspis kendallii*, *C. cf. nigridia*, *Mabuya multifasciata* and *Sphenomorphus scotophilus*. A museum specimen of *Varanus salvator* (ZRC 2.5063) exists at the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research at the National University of Singapore. The museum acronym ZRC is for the Zoological Reference Collection (at present, the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research).

We visited the island on three separate occasions on 13-15 July 2001 with the specific goal to observe and sample its herpetofauna. To the list